

SENATOR PAUL FORMICA TWENTIETH SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING 300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 3400 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591 CAPITOL: (600) 842-1421 E-MAIL: Paul Formica@ega.ct.gov WEBSITE: www.SenatorFormica.com SENATE MINORITY WHIP

RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Testimony in Support of SB 263, SB 264, SB 512: An Act concerning infrastructure improvements to exit 74 on I-95, An Act concerning a rail station in Niantic and an Act concerning a guardrail on route 154 in Old Saybrook.

February 11, 2015

By Senator Paul Formica

Representative Guerrera, Senator Maynard, Ranking Members Senator Boucher and Representative O'Dea along with distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, I am Senator Paul Formica from the 20th Senate District and I am here to testify in favor of several bills specific to my district.

The first is <u>Proposed S.B. No. 263</u> AN ACT CONCERNING INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE AREA AROUND EXIT 74 ON INTERSTATE 95.

As you may or may not know 1-95 at the intersection with 395 in the area of exit 74 is extremely busy year round but specifically during the summer months. You can view this area of the highway to see for yourself by clicking on the Department of Transportation website to view the traffic cameras. This area is identified as camera #192 the East Lyme exit 74 - Rt. 161 Flanders Rd. camera.

This bill asks the Department of Transportation to remodel and repair the area surrounding exit 74, including widening the bridge spanning Route 161 to six lanes, and rerouting the exit ramps to increase safety and expand economic development opportunities such as the significant plan for retail of a 43,500 square foot complex including a Costco and 200 apartments currently under construction additionally. The developer is willing to participate in the costs as a public private partnership.

The safety on the exit ramps is critical especially during times of increased traffic. It is very chaotic when at the height of summer traffic motorists are trying exit a major highway and onto local roads that cannot handle the excess capacity. I bring this to your attention as you contemplate and focus on transportation infrastructure upgrades in this session.

The second bill I am testifying in support of is <u>Proposed S.B. No. 264</u> AN ACT CONCERNING A RAIL STATION AT NIANTIC FOR SHORELINE EAST.

This project would benefit the area by getting more commuters on the train to work and or for pleasure. This

During the past several years more people are looking to take mass transit specifically trains to work. There has already been an increase in local housing and these families are looking for a way to get to and from work safely and reliably. The location is also equidistant from Old Saybrook to New London and would allow increased access to the Maritime community in Niantic Bay. Currently, the railroad bridge has to stay down when a train passes through. Putting a stop before the bridge would allow the bridge to stay up thus letting the flow of boats and commerce into the bay while still keeping commuters moving.

Lastly, I am here to support <u>Proposed S.B. No. 512</u> AN ACT CONCERNING A GUARDRAIL ON ROUTE 154 IN OLD SAYBROOK.

This bill is a proposal that I and fellow Senator Art Linares are submitting on behalf of residents in the Old Saybrook area. We are asking the Department of Transportation to put in place a guardrail on Route 154 in Old Saybrook to prevent parking and preserve wetlands.

Currently, people who use the area for recreation are parking their vehicles along the section of route 154 at the end causeway headed toward Fenwick which is causing a hazard. There are also concerns of waste left by fisherman in the wetland area. This is a quality of life issue that deserves attention,

I thank you for the opportunity to testify on these proposals.

